

STRENGTHENING THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM TO COMBAT TERRORIST TRAVEL

WHAT IS THE VISA WAIVER PROGRAM (VWP) ?

38 VWP COUNTRIES

Andorra	Estonia	Italy	Netherlands	South Korea
Australia	Finland	Japan	New Zealand	Spain
Austria	France	Latvia	Norway	Sweden
Belgium	Germany	Liechtenstein	Portugal	Switzerland
Brunei	Greece	Lithuania	San Marino	Taiwan
Chile	Hungary	Luxembourg	Singapore	United Kingdom
Czech Republic	Iceland	Malta	Slovakia	
Denmark	Ireland	Monaco	Slovenia	

VWP CITIZENS can travel to U.S. without a visa for 90 days, still given background security checks.



U.S. CITIZENS can travel to VWP countries visa-free.

VWP has a big impact to **U.S. ECONOMY** through increased trade & tourism.



\$190 BILLION
IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT

&



1 MILLION JOBS
IN 2014

WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS WITH VWP ?



Some VWP countries **NOT SHARING COUNTERTERRORISM INFORMATION** in a timely manner.



After recent terror attacks in Europe, officials provided names to the U.S. Intel community that **WERE NOT KNOWN TO US.**



~5,000 Europeans have gone to fight in Syria/Iraq —most are from VWP countries.



Not every country is issuing all citizens secure, fraud resistant “**E-PASSPORTS.**”



Most travelers **NOT THOROUGHLY SCREENED** against INTERPOL databases.

VISA WAIVER PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT & TERRORIST TRAVEL PREVENTION ACT

THE SOLUTION:

TERMINATES VWP countries if they fail to share counterterrorism information.



TERMINATES VWP countries if they fail to screen travelers against INTERPOL criminal & terrorism databases.

DENIES VWP status to individuals who have gone to certain terrorist hotspots (e.g. **Syria**, **Iraq**) since 2011 or have dual-nationality in such countries.



REQUIRES all VWP countries to issue & screen fraud resistant “e-passports” to everyone.



REQUIRES annual threat assessments of high-risk VWP countries based on foreign fighter flow, visa denials, & terror database matches.

ALLOWS for suspension of high-risk countries until the threat has passed.